launch a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme on sugarcane in Punjab State. Under this scheme, assistance is proposed to be provided on training to the farmers, farm workers including women on newly developed production technology, demonstration, quality seed production, distribution of improved implements, etc.

Industries in Aquaculture

8315. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industries engaged in aquaculture in our country at present; and

(b) the details of the aquaculture industries indicating names and locations and their annual business transaction for the year 1993-94 and 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) As per information furnished by the Secretariat for Industrial Approvals in the Ministry of Industry between August 1991 and April 1995, permission was granted to 70 companies for setting up 100 per cent Export Oriented Units for aquaculture.

(b) Names and location of these units are given in the Annexure. (*See* appendix 173, Annexure No. 190). Details of annual business transactions of these companies are not maintained by the Government.

Benefits to Aquaculture Industry

8316. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the benefits being provided to aquaculture induustry in the liberalised industrial policy; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The major benefits provided to aquaculture in the liberalised industrial policy include:

(i) Exemption of customs duty and central excise duty on prawn feed, fish meal, pre-mixes and other ingredients used in feed formulations.

(ii) Reduction of customs duty from 65 per cent to 15 per cent for import of fish vaccine and certain chemicals used in aquaculture and prawn processing (in 1995-96 budget).

(iii) Liberalisation of terms for foreign equity participation and for engaging overseas consultants and payment of fees in foreign exchange.

(iv) Waiving of income tax in the case of small freshwater fish farmers for a net water area of 7.5 acre per farmer, fatching an annual income of Rs. 4000 per acre (in 1993-94 and 1994-95 assessment years).

Asistance to rural youth for acquaculture

8317. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of assistance being provided by the Central Government to the rural educated youth for aquaculture in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): Assistance is being provided by the Central Government under ongoing schemes of freshwater and brackishwater aquaculture development to farmers including rural youth for aquaculture activities.

In freshwater aquaculture assistance is provided for construction of new ponds, renovation of ponds and tanks, inputs,

running water fish culture, aerators for enhancing production, integrated fish farming, establishment of seed hatcheries and feed mills, etc. For brackishwater aquaculture, assistance is provided for development of shrimp farms, inputs, shrimp hatcheries and feed mills.

Assistance is also provided to the States for establishment of demonstration-cum-training centres at State level for training of farmers and rural youth in improved methods of fish|shrimm farming.

Distribution of edible oil through fair price shops

8318. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NDDB is not distributing edible oil through fair price shops;

(b) whether it is a fact that NDDB is doing trading of oil through businessmen instead of cooperative societies; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that NDDB had made huge losses, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) NDDB has reported that they are dealing in oil both through cooperatives as well as private traders.

(c) In the Market Intervention Operations (MIO) conducted by NDDB at the instance of Government of India, they have reported loss. These losses were reportedly incurred while building up stock so as to ensure incentive prices to farmers, and carry inventory and release the same during lean season to moderate consumer prices. Steep fall in prices of edible oil that led to decline in the value of the inventory has been reported as another contributing factor to the losses.

दूध की बर्बादी

8319. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह :** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भंडारण और अन्य सुविधाओं के अभाव में 50,000 लीटर दूध बर्बाद हो जाता है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) सरकार ने दूध की ऐसी बर्बादी को रोकने हेतु क्या प्रयास किये है ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरविन्द नेताम) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) तथा (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Production and demand of paddy and wheat production and demand of paddy

8320. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of paddy and wheat for the financial years 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the total demand of these essential commodities for the current year 1995-96;

(c) whether the demand is met internally or the centre has to import essential foodgrains from other countries; and

(d) if not, the total availability of these essential commodities country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The total production of paddy and wheat during agri-